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25 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT: Times of Weather Briefings

1. Two items of information are necessary in establishing appropriate times of weather briefings. First is a determination of the action that must be completed to effect the decisions rendered at briefing time. Second is precise establishment of the time required to complete this action. Once these are determined, weather forecasts must be made available at the time of decision if they are to be of any value.

2. My opinion is that, on the average, forecasts would improve if alert and mission plan briefings were held 1 to 1 1/2 hours later than currently scheduled. Although limited additional data would be received, available data would undergo more thoughtful and careful consideration. Data gathering and processing times are relatively fixed. This currently restricts the amount of time available for thinking. I do not believe that delaying briefings more than 1 to 1 1/2 hours would greatly improve the forecast accuracy.

3. I recommend that every effort be made to retain the capability of modifying planned missions up to approximately departure minus six hours.

4. I do not believe that our thinking should be excessively colored by the conditions of the past week. Project capability to mount missions has exceeded opportunity during this period of limited area of interest. Thus, every precaution has been taken not to miss an opportunity. As the area increases, favorable weather areas will frequently exceed our capability of exploitation. This will allow selection of more favorable conditions.

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Lt. Col., USAF
Weather Officer

RJS:bm

0 & 1 - Addressee

060180-1060 (subj)

4 - Ops chron

5 - Admin chron

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